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REPORT

OF THE

TREASURER,

OVERSEER OF THE POOR,

AND

Superintending School Committee,

OF THE

Town of Amherst,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1878.

AMHERST:
CABINET PRESS.
1878.

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Report of Town Treasurer.

Treasurer in account with the town of Amherst :

DR.—Cash received :

To Cash in hands of Treas'r March 1, 1877,	\$597 41
In hands of Collector, 1874,	376 30
" " " " 1875,	644 54
" " " " 1876,	800 00
Taxes assessed,	7,824 71
Interest on Taxes, 1875,	9 80
" " " " 1876,	17 37
" " " " 1877,	8 85
Insurance Tax,	7 50
Literary Fund,	111 37
Savings Bank Tax,	1,804 50
Railroad Tax,	425 00
Interest on Lawrence Fund,	70 00
N. H. George, rent of Town Hall,	168 00
J. B. Fay, " " " "	10 00
J. B. Fay, lots sold in Cemetery,	9 00
F. K. Boutelle, lots sold in Cemetery,	6 00
Rent of Bacon House,	45 84
	———— \$12,936 19

CR.—By Cash paid out :

State Tax,	\$1,784 00
County Tax,	1,016 75
Schools,	2,190 60
School House Tax, Dist. No. 11,	15 16
Town Officers,	785 83
Fire Department,	135 15
Miscellaneous,	2,156 94
Snow Bills,	181 64
Roads and Bridges,	723 33
Principal and Interest,	513 12
Aid to G. S. Hill,	128 99
" " Benj. Melvin,	14 65
Overseer of Poor for Town Farm,	878 53
In hands of Collector for 1874,	376 30
" " " " 1877,	1,427 43
Cash in hands of Treas'r,	607 77
	———— \$12,936 19

SCHOOLS.

E. R. Burtt, District No. 1,		\$840 87
E. Huntress, "	2,	159 42
Wm. Melendy, "	3,	192 42
J. P. Trow, "	4,	158 80
G. W. Batchelder,"	5,	158 89
A. E. Staples, "	6,	127 62
E. A. Parkhurst, "	7,	158 56
Chas. A. Riddle, "	8,	110 42
G. Parker, jr., "	9,	134 15
B. B. Whiting, "	10,	107 98
H. Evans, "	11,	22 30
H. A. Crooker, "	12,	19 17
		----- \$2,190 60

SCHOOL HOUSE TAX.

George E. Patterson, Dist. No. 11,	\$15 16
	----- \$15 16

PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST.

Ellen F. McAlvin,	\$31 20
Estate of Merrill Fletcher,	78 00
George H. Shaw,	69 42
Abel T. Rideout,	19 50
A. Milton Wilkins,	15 00
Souhegan Bank,	300 00
	----- \$513 12

SNOW BILLS.

T. M. Harvell,	\$23 64
Charles S. White,	7 16
James Barry, 1876-7,	49 66

John Baldwin,	1 90
Wm. B. Sargent,	3 28
Isaac Parker,	1 50
James F. Weston,	3 56
Charles S. Parker,	5 44
C. P. Wheeler,	1 56
F. W. Chase,	2 00
Frank Hartshorn,	5 98
I. P. Weston,	1 60
J. P. Trow,	3 91
F. W. Holbrook,	64
James R. Cochran,	36 88
A. S. Wilkins,	2 16
H. S. Boutelle,	3 26
H. M. Parker,	50
J. B. Upham,	3 76
Frank W. Noyes,	2 34
J. H. Drucker,	1 08
Daniel A. Peabody,	4 32
C. F. Wright,	12 93
W. H. Hubbard,	1 62
F. K. Boutelle,	96

	\$181 64

HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES.

Joel F. Osgood, Jr., labor on highway,	\$14 16
Daniel A. Peabody,	51 22
B. B. Whiting	52 16
Charles P. Wheeler,	6 52
John M. Prince,	43 66
James S. Parkhurst,	9 52
Charles A. Riddle,	79 10
S. P. Parkhurst,	33 87
Chester Shipley,	18 10
Joel F. Osgood,	55 52
Solomon Prince,	14 08

Isaiah S. Berry,	"	"	7 70
Isaac Parker,	"	"	8 60
Wm. B. Sargent,	"	"	36 50
Charles S. White,	"	"	27 08
James F. Weston,	"	"	4 80
Frank W. Chase,	"	"	5 60
I. P. Weston,	"	"	2 00
T. M. Harvell,	"	"	10 27
Mark Putnam,	"	"	7 91
J. P. Trow,	"	"	1 93
Isaac B. Dodge,	"	"	17 15
Aaron S. Wilkins, labor and lumber for bridge on brook road,			23 70
Chas. S. Parker, labor on highway,			34 12
" " " labor on bridge, stone and railing,			38 00
Oliver Carter, lumber for bridge in 1873,			5 74
Cyrus Cross, " " "			27 68
B. B. Whiting, bridge plank,			10 71
Wm. Rhoades, labor on highway and plank for bridge,			19 02
Luke Gilson, land bought for gravel,			10 00
F. W. Holbrook, labor on highway,			3 12
E. W. Peacock, " "			14 75
J. H. Drucker, " "			5 57
Francis Maxwell, " "			2 79
F. K. Boutelle, " "			20 68

			\$723 33

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

A. A. Rotch, for Firemen,	\$111 00
J. B. Fay, Steward,	9 15
F. P. Phelps, Firewards,	15 00

	\$135 15

MISCELLANEOUS.

N. H. George, labor and bills paid for Town Hall,	\$115	35
Chas. Richardson, settees for Town Hall,	28	00
A. S. Wilkins, wood " " "	15	00
E. R. Burtt, repairing Town Hall and Grave Yard fence,	3	00
H. E. Woodberry, street lamp purchased for town,	3	00
J. F. Osgood Jr., repairs on lobby and iron for bridge railing,	3	25
Isaac B. Dodge, iron to repair lobby,	1	56
A. S. Wilkins, blankets for lobby,	7	00
J. F. Osgood Jr., meals furnished for tramps,	15	34
T. J. Stickney, " " " "	7	00
Samuel E. Staples, sheep killed by dogs,	10	00
Samuel Wilkins, " " " "	6	00
W. H. W. Hinds, return of births,		75
T. B. Dearborn, " " "	1	25
" " " professional services for Thos. E. Curtis,	9	75
Thos. M. Harvell, landside for town plough,	1	08
J. G. Davis, deportment cards for schools,	3	50
Isaac P. McKean, labor,	2	25
J. O. Pulsifer, insurance buildings on town farm,	37	50
J. B. Fay, services as janitor,	17	04
" " " " undertaker,	37	45
R. T. Knight, town pump,	3	55
A. S. Wilkins, Assessor book, highway warrants etc.,	4	80
Stationery, copying &c.,	17	19
Bounty on foxes,	5	50
" " hawks,	2	00
Mark Putnam and others, watering places,	43	50
Repairs on Bacon House,	24	85
Edwin M. Holt, undertaker's service,	4	50
R. T. Knight, care of town clock,	15	00
" " " expenses to Nashua & Manchester,	8	00

Geo. W. Parkhurst, illegal tax,	10 27
Wm. H. H. Nichols, poll tax from which he is exempt,	2 85
A. A. Rotch, notifying jurors, blanks &c.,	7 50
Boylston & Rotch, printing Town Reports, Advertising &c,	61 75
Isaac P. McKean, painting settees,	5 00
C. M. Dodge, medical attendance at town farm,	3 25
" " " return of births and deaths,	4 25
H. E. Woodberry, goods delivered to I. H. Holt at town farm,	4 15
F. K. Bouteille, undertaker's bill,	54 00
" " " repairs on graveyard fence,	6 00
A. S. Wilkins, Expense to Concord,	1 95
Expense of Fairfield suit, two trials,	1,052 37
Sawyer & Twiss, meal for town farm, 1876,	3 75
Discount on taxes, 1877,	185, 79
Abatement of taxes, 1875,	13 90
" " 1876,	36 66,
" " 1877,	185 81
Non-Resident highway receipts,	63 73
	----- \$2,156 94

TOWN OFFICERS.

Aaron S. Wilkins, selectman,	150 00
Isaac B. Dodge, "	120 00
Francis K. Bouteille, "	100 00
Geo. W. Osgood, collector,	125 00
R. T. Knight, treasurer,	50 00
A. A. Rotch, town clerk,	58 00
J. G. Davis, supt. school committee,	95 13
Brooks R. Came, moderator,	5 00
P. Dodge and H. E. Woodberry, auditors,	6 00
Joel F. Osgood, jr., police.	16 00
Timothy J. Stickney, police,	17 00
S. D. Herrick, overseer of the poor,	43 70
	----- \$785 83

PAUPERS OFF THE FARM.

W. D. Forsaith, goods delivered to G. S. Hill,	\$128 99
F. A. Noyes, goods delivered to Benj. Melvin,	14 65
	<hr/>
	\$143 64

TOWN DEBT.

Amount of notes against the Town,	\$4,377 00
In Treasurer's hands,	\$607 77
“ Liquor Agt.'s “	204 33
“ Collector's “	1,803 73
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	2,615 82
Total debt of Town,	<hr/> \$1,761 18

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT T. KNIGHT, Treasurer.

AMHERST, March 2, 1878. We have examined the account of the Treasurer of the Town of Amherst for the year and find them properly cast and substantially vouched.

PERLEY DODGE,
H. E. WOODBERRY, } Auditors.

TOWN PROPERTY.

Town House and lot, estimated value,	\$10,000 00
Stoves, furniture and fixtures in town house,	500 00
Town farm and buildings,	8,000 00
Personal property at farm,	2,755 94
Engine house and lot,	1,700 00
Stoves and fixtures in engine house,	150 00
Two fire engines,	875 00
One hose carriage,	50 00
850 feet hose,	850 00
Hearse and house,	700 00
Soldier's monument,	4,500 00
Town clock and bell,	1,000 00
Two safes,	150 00
One road plough,	15 00
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	\$31,235 94

REPORT OF THE OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.

EXPENDITURES.

H. T. Harvell, groceries, pork and lard, bill as prized by selectmen,	\$50 62
H. Eaton, one grate,	40
S. E. Jaquith & Co., curtain paper and cord,	1 60
J. H. Blake, dry goods,	1 55
F. F. Kimball, dry goods,	I 78
S. M. Morse & Co., for curtain cord,	30
Haywood & Green, tin ware,	1 94
McQuesten & Co., for shorts,	25 80
Freight bill,	1 10
J. B. Fay, repairing tin ware,	40
H. M. Goodrich, barn broom,	1 00
Curtis & Hadley, rep. harness,	1 60
Soap,	63
S. M. Morse & Co., book for town use,	1 25
A. C. Fisher, rep. chairs and lounge,	3 25
McQuesten & Co., grain,	36 79
Aekerman & Reed, meat,	1 60
John H. Coggin, difference between cattle,	2 00
Kidder & Whitney, one spade,	1 40
Barr & Co., wire netting and seed,	1 23
Louise Sanderson, for labor,	12 30
Henry Parker, vinegar,	80
D. Whiting & Sons, meal,	6 75
A. B. Bennett, whitewashing,	4 50
D. W. Sargent, one cow,	35 00
D. Whiting & Sons, meal,	30 00
Kidder & Whitney, potash,	3 84

E. C. Batchelder, house paper,	2 24
Grey & Howard, dry goods,	90
J. F. Bills, one cow,	40 00
T. M. Harvell, seed potatoes,	1 50
E. G. Clark, maple sugar,	3 41
Kidder & Whitney, one basket,	50
J. M. Harvell, apples,	1 00
Luther Coggin, one cow and calf,	50 00
B. F. Butterfield, labor,	10 00
S. W. Moore, labor,	2 00
Luther Coggin, seed beans,	40
Kidder & Whitney, hooks and screws,	27
John H. Coggin, one cow,	40 00
J. M. Jackson, services,	25
J. H. Blake, dry goods,	3 67
Wm. Rhoades, seed beans,	50
Cabbage plants,	1 75
J. M. Harvell, shearing sheep,	2 50
E. Whitford, mowing machine fixtures,	1 65
A. P. Shepard, white washing,	6 00
D. Whiting & Sons, meal,	6 75
Kidder & Whitney, whip and screening,	67
S. W. Moore, labor,	1 00
N. Jordan, hanging paper,	4 00
Kidder & Whitney, curry comb,	20
E. C. Batchelder, one roll paper,	08
Cabbage plants,	79
D. Whiting & Sons, meal,	13 50
Berries,	2 55
Mop handle,	50
Medicine for J. Jewett,	1 25
D. Whiting & Sons, meal,	16 15
B. F. Butterfield, labor,	41 00
G. W. Batchelder, harness,	2 00
Curtis & Hadley, rep. harness,	3 90
Sawyer & Twiss, grinding,	6 16
Frank Wilkins, carrying milk,	3 89
Clothes pins,	12

D. Whiting & Sons, meal,	6 50
Peaches,	1 40
Waste Yarn,	30
C. P. Bell, rep. Wringer,	3' 50
S. D. Herrick, one cow,	30 00
G. H. Brigham, barrel flour,	9 50
Haywood & Green, lamp chimneys,	24
G. Walker & Son, meat,	23 53
C. C. Twiss, grinding,	2 20
C. Wyman, apples,	7 50
D. McCarthy, 8 mos. labor,	160 00
Curtis & Hadley, rep. surcingles,	45
T. S. Burns, butter,	45 95
S. W. Moore, cranberries,	1 00
McQuesten & Co., flour and meal,	18 25
G. H. Brigham, 1 barrel flour,	9 50
Charles Longee, 1 bull,	19 00
E. P. Sawtelle, carpenter work,	12 03
Willard Hayden, difference between cattle,	6 00
W. H. Greenleaf & Co., 1 barrel flour,	9 25
C. H. Baker, fresh fish and goods,	18 50
Came & Boutelle, pasturing cattle,	25 00
J. Knights, bill,	2 21
D. Whiting & Sons, shorts,	5 50
S. W. Moore, butchering,	1 50
J. B. Fay, rep. pump and tin ware,	2 25
Forsaith & Osgood, grocery and meat bill,	21 92
Forsaith & Osgood, farming tools and tobacco for J. Jewett,	5 19
W. D. Forsaith, grocery and meat bill,	73 86
" salt and tobacco for J. Jewett,	11 10
G. Walker & Son, meat,	9 72
H. E. Woodberry, grass seed, groceries and 2 horse blankets,	106 55
J. F. Osgood, blacksmith bill,	36 14
H. E. Woodberry, tools, hardware, tobacco and overalls for J. Jewett,	20 12
A. F. Sawyer, shingles and grinding,	21 51
Nourse & Stearns, grinding and rye meal,	3 10
F. Pierce, 1 horse,	140 00

David McCarty, 4 mos. labor,	50 00
A. J. Burns, labor,	132 50
H. T. Harvell, superintendant,	375 00
Expenditures,	\$1,930 25
Receipts,	1,406 72
	— — —
	\$523 53
Money due,	206 69
Net,	\$316 84

SAMUEL D. HERRICK, Overseer of the Poor.

AMHERST, March 2, 1878.—We have examined the above account and find it correctly cast and properly vouched.

PERLEY DODGE,
H. E. WOODBERRY, } Auditors.

RECEIPTS.

Received from treasury,	\$355 00
" Israel H. Holt, on milk bill,	2 00
" milk,	621 75
" from George Danforth for oats and corn,	60
" W. D. Forsaith, for beef cows,	138 00
" calves,	4 00
" 1 hog and pig,	17 58
" lambs and wool,	63 58
" county for Josiah Jewett,	35 00
" hay and straw,	70 13
" lumber,	27 79
" use of grove and horse baiting,	18 80
" keeping sheep,	2 75
" poultry and eggs,	7 69
" walnuts,	11 81
" cabbage,	16 49

"	soap grease,	1 50
"	Potatoes,	1 00
"	letting horse,	50
"	white beans,	6 75
"	use of bull,	4 00
		<hr/>
		\$1,406 72

Inventory of Personal Property at Town Farm.

15 tons English Hay, 20.00	\$300 00
8 " Stock Hay, 10 00	80 00
Oat and Corn Fodder,	25 00
Oat Straw,	3 00
Meal and Shorts,	3 50
180 bushels Corn, 45c.,	81 00
50 " Oats, 40c.,	20 00
6½ " Beans, 2 00	13 00
Salt and Peas,	2 30
3 Shoats, 11.00	33 00
14 Cows, 42.00	588 00
15 Sheep,	100 00
35 Hens, 75c.,	26 25
Pair Bulls,	60 00
Pair Horses,	200 00
Roller,	15 00
Horse Rake & Hoe,	23 00
Cultivator,	3 00
2 Harrows,	10 00
4 Ploughs,	35 00
1 Sleigh,	8 00
Hay Cutter,	5 00
5 Rakes,	2 00
6 Pitch Forks, 50c.,	3 00
1 Whip,	75
4 Shovels,	2 00
4 Dung Forks,	3 00
4 Chains,	7 00
1 Iron Bar,	1 25
1 Post Shovel,	90
1 Pelt,	50

4 Baskets,	1 60
1 Corn Sheller,	2 50
1 Post Axe,	50
3 Axes.	2 00
1 Traverse Sled,	30 00
1 Ox Sled,	7 00
Hand Sled and Wheelbarrow.	6 00
Horse Fork and Ropes,	15 00
1 Shaft Drag,	4 00
2 Carts, 55.00,	110 00
1 Lumber Wagon,	60 00
14 Barrels, 20c.,	2 80
4 Hoes, 50c.,	2 00
4 Whiffletrees,	1 00
1 Mowing Machine,	50 00
3 Seythes and Snaths, 75c.,	2 25
Cant Hook,	40
Small Farm Wagon,	35 00
14 lb. Sausage Meat, 12c.,	1 68
58 lb. Lard, 12c.,	6 96
22 lb. Sugar, 10 1-2c.,	2 31
Soaps and Raisins,	80
Pickles,	1 10
Spices,	3 53
Salt and Hops,	25
Rice and Tea,	1 06
2 lb. Coffee. 30c.,	60
Sulphur and Fish,	55
1-2 bbl. Flour,	4 50
16 lb. Fresh Meat, 12c.,	1 92
55 bu. Turnips, 20c.,	11 00
Cabbage and Nuts,	2 25
55 bu. Potatoes, 55c.,	30 25
125 lb. Hams, 12c.,	15 00
200 lb. Pork, 12c.,	24 00
10 lb. Candles, 15c.,	1 50
8 gal. Molasses, 65c.,	5 62
7 lb. Butter, 28c.,	1 96

14 cans of Fruit,	20c.,	2 80
8 gal. Soap,		1 00
2 Clocks,		5 00
Clothes Horse and Tea-kettle,		2 00
6 bu. Oil Nuts,	50c.,	3 00
3 lb. Wool,	42c.,	1 26
9 doz. Eggs,		1 50
Floor Brush,		50
Tea and Dining Sets,		13 00
9 Tumblers,		72
Spoon Tumbler and Castor,		75
Spoons and Knives & Forks,		1 00
4 Tubs,		3 00
Wash Bench and Board,		1 00
3 Pails,		40
2 Tea-kettles,		1 75
4 Iron Pots,		2 00
Frying Pan and Kettle,		1 00
17 Cotton Sheets,	50c..	8 50
8 Woollen Blankets,		5 50
19 Pillow Cases,		3 20
19 Quilts,		13 00
8 Feather Beds,	5.25,	42 00
7 Straw Ticks,		3 50
18 Pillows		4 50
1 Bolster,		1 00
6 Bedsteads,		3 00
3 " 2.50,		7 50
5 Stoves,		40 00
4 Light-stands,		50
5 Tables,		12 50
1 Carpet,		6 00
6 Cane Chairs,		6 00
5 cases Drawers,		5 00
4 Chairs,	42c.,	1 68
3 Rocking Chairs,		3 00
12 Chairs,		2 00
Canvas and Oil Mats,		83

Tin and Cooking Ware,	16 25
Steel-yard and Augers,	3 00
3 Saws, 85c.,	2 55
1 Grindstone,	7 00
Screwdriver,	20
Nippers and Chisel,	1 35
Saw-set and Wedges,	1 25
2 Yokes 6 00, 2 Spears 5 00.	11 00
Lumber 5 00, Brooms 50c.,	5 50
Crash Roller and Mop Handle,	1 45
Table Cloths and Towels,	1 25
Stone and Earthen Jars,	45
Stone Pitcher,	20
2 Spit-cups,	25
Clothes Line,	35
Clothes Wringer,	4 50
Lounge,	7 00
Oil and Spread,	1 15
Clothes Basket,	75
Teapoy,	1 50
Soap Grease,	1 00
1 Light Wagon,	10 00
1 " "	55 06
Double Harness,	25 00
Single "	18 00
One Buffalo Robe,	4 00
5 cords Wood, 5.00	25 00
10 " " 2. 0,	20 00
	\$2,538 94
Due for Stave stuff from Wm. L. Pierce & Co.,	\$133 25
Hay from Jason Bills,	18 00
Due for Milk,	55 44
	206 69
	\$2,745 63

Supper, breakfast and lodgings, have been furnished 129 tramps.
 One death in the house during the year. Miss Eunice Stearns.
 Funeral charges paid by relatives.

Respectfully submitted,

SAMUEL D. HERRICK,

Overseer of Poor.

Report of the Superintending School Committee,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1878.

By the laws of the State the School Committee are required to submit to the town an annual report. In meeting this requirement, we present in addition to the usual table of statistics, a brief sketch of each school in town, with such suggestions for the improvement of the whole, as have seemed to us most important on a survey of the entire field and the actual workings of the existing system.

DISTRICT No. 1, ORGANIZED UNDER THE SOMERSWORTH ACT.

Mr. E. R. Burtt, Prudential Committee.

Primary School, taught by Miss Mary E. Bosworth, who has had charge of this department for three years. Under her care the scholars have attained a superior standing for good order, punctuality and accuracy in recitation. Her methods of instruction were admirable and sustained with growing interest throughout the course.

The vigor and enthusiasm with which she has pursued her work, have given a positive impulse to the cause of education in town, as her example has stimulated many teachers, who have visited her school to similar exertions.

At the end of the Autumn Term Miss Bosworth was persuaded to accept a place in the High School at Malden, Mass., and the Committee reluctantly accepted her resignation.

On the recommendation of Miss Bosworth, Miss Emma J. Fellows was employed as her successor. In this position, which was somewhat difficult to fill, Miss Fellows acquitted herself very well. The scholars made good progress in their studies, and at the examination the exercises were marked by promptness and accuracy.

Singing and gymnastics have furnished a pleasing diversion from the severer studies during the year.

The Upper Department, or High School, was taught by Miss Helen M. Meade. At the commencement, the school was small; many of the scholars had fallen into careless habits; some were irregular in attendance, and the general tone of feeling was listless and discouraging. But a change for the better was soon manifest. New rules were introduced and enforced. The scholars caught the spirit of their teacher, the efficiency of whose methods they began to appreciate.

The second term witnessed a decided improvement in numbers and behavior; most of the scholars becoming thoroughly interested in their duties. With the third term, there was a large accession to the number of scholars, several having come in from other districts. The size of the school and the variety of studies were such that an assistant was needed, and Mr. J. E. Upton, who had joined the school after teaching in No. 8, was employed in this capacity. With this assistance, Miss Meade was able to employ her time to better advantage, and the class exercises were conducted with ease and thoroughness. The earnestness and regularity of the scholars' were very noticeable. Regularity in attendance and earnest application to study become the habit of the school and most of the older scholars made commendable improvement. The maps, compositions and mathematical papers exhibited at the close of the school, furnished ample proof of diligent and careful work.

The committee were gratified with the progress of the scholars in both departments of the School; and they take encouragement for the future, in the evidence that our young friends are learning to appreciate the importance of order and discipline in the school-room, and to find that self-control is essential to real progress and self-respect. After the public exercises of the examination, THE LAWRENCE PRIZES, for proficiency in study and punctuality in attendance were awarded to the most deserving scholars, according to the directions which accompanied Miss Lawrence's bequest. Nineteen volumes were distributed in the primary department and twenty-one in the higher, at a cost of \$37.89. It is due perhaps to the State Normal School, to say that all the teachers in Dist. No 1, have been for one or more terms, members of that Institution,

and they all recognize the benefit of its instructions.

The statistics of this district will be found in the subjoined Statistical Table.

DISTRICT NO. 2.

Prudential Committee, Mr. Edmund Huntress.

Under Miss O'Connor's excellent management both terms of this school sustained the reputation of previous years. The average of good scholarship was high. There seemed to be very few really poor scholars, and the interest, ambition, and animation manifested is worthy of imitation in many of our schools. The number of studies was small, but what the scholars attempted they did well and understandingly. They were especially well-drilled in spelling and arithmetic.

DISTRICT NO. 3.

Prudential Com., Mr. Wm. Melandy.

The school in this district is not large and the scholars are most of them young. Miss Noyes, who has already established a reputation as a teacher, was very successful in winning the affection of the children under her care. The singing was a pleasant feature of the two terms she taught, and the scholars improved in reading and arithmetic. Mr. Searles made his first attempt at teaching in the winter term. He has some good ideas of what a school should be, but not having experience lacked method in teaching and in the management of his classes. Particular attention needs to be paid in this school to enunciation and manner of recitation.

DISTRICT NO. 4.

Prudential Com., Mr. J. P. Trow.

Both terms of this school was taught by Miss Marcella Smith, who here made her first attempt at teaching. She worked faithfully and perseveringly and the scholars did both themselves and

their teacher credit. They improved greatly in reading during the second term, the first class deserving special praise. The chief need of the school is to cultivate promptness and distinctness in recitation. Miss Smith made a record in her register from which it appears that, with two exceptions, all the pupils had avoided whispering during both terms, and two scholars were not absent or tardy during the year.

DISTRICT NO. 5.

Prudential Com., Mr. Geo. W. Batchelder.

The first and second terms were taught by Miss Adelaide Whitten, a young teacher who was sincerely desirous of doing her work well, but who did not rouse her pupils to any great interest in study and to whose inexperience the school was difficult to manage. Miss Nahor, who taught the short Winter term, brought larger experience to her work and put herself into thorough sympathy with her scholars. Good discipline and diligence must have characterized her instruction, or such substantial progress would not have been made in eight weeks. Ten of the sixteen scholars were neither absent nor tardy during the term.

DISTRICT NO. 6.

Prudential Com., Mr. A. E. Staples.

Miss Weston made a promising beginning as a teacher in the first term. At the opening of the school the pupils failed both in enunciation of words and manner of reading, and Miss Weston did much to correct both faults. The Winter term was under the tuition of Mr. Geo. Foster, also a beginner in the work of instruction. For some reason not apparent to the Committee, many of the older scholars were absent from the examination and great irregularity marked the attendance during the term. The teacher may have been at fault, and if so, complaint should have been made to the Committee without hesitation and the evil corrected. The younger scholars improved and two or three deserve commendation for punctual attendance. The children of this district

are not deficient in capacity, and a little effort on the part of the parents would secure a quickened interest in the matter of education which would richly repay their endeavors.

DISTRICT NO. 7.

Prudential Com., Mr. E. Adams Parkhurst.

Partly from sickness and partly from other causes not so unavoidable, the attendance of the scholars in this district was very irregular, and the improvement in scholarship during the first term was not what the appearance of the school at the beginning led the Committee to hope. At the close of the second term the classes in Geography and U. S. History did very creditably, but those in Spelling had evidently been neglected. The school seemed quiet and orderly, but Miss Shoren lacked the punctuality and accuracy indispensable to a good teacher, and in some respects the management of the school was defective. The school deserves a superior teacher.

DISTRICT NO. 8.

Prudential Com., Mr. Chas. A. Riddle.

The first term of the school in this district was not a very profitable one, as the teacher, Miss Gage, perhaps partly from inexperience, lacked thoroughness in teaching and force in controlling her scholars. The second term, under Mr. Upton, was much better ; so short a time was necessarily taken for review that perhaps neither teacher nor scholars appeared at their best at the examination, but it was evident that good work had been done by both and a hearty interest taken in study.

DISTRICT NO. 9.

Prudential Com., Mr. Granville Parker, Jr.

The school in this district was fortunate in retaining Miss Bidwell during its three terms, and under her faithful and consci-

entious instruction the school prospered. If a lack of promptness and animation was felt, it must be remembered that it is difficult to maintain much spirit in a school of this size. The deportment of the school was excellent, while two little girls were neither absent, tardy nor dismissed during the whole year.

DISTRICT NO. 10.

Prudential Com., Mr. B. B. Whiting.

Miss Fuller, who is quite an experienced teacher, had charge of both terms of this school. There are some excellent scholars in this district, the classes in Mathematics being particularly worthy of mention. The uneasiness of some of the pupils was owing perhaps quite as much to the cramped, uncomfortable seats as to any fault of theirs or their teacher. Three of the pupils were present punctually every day of the school year.

From the Statistical Table which is compiled from the Registers and other sources, it appears that we have 300 different scholars enrolled, four years old and upward, attending the public schools in town; 160 boys, 140 girls, with an average attendance of 215, a little more than two-thirds of the whole number. We expend annually, the sum of \$2,329,00 for tuition, supervision and miscellaneous expenses, which gives \$7.72 as the expense per scholar. These facts show that our citizens are not indifferent to the claims of education, and that they have at heart the welfare of the young. With so large an expenditure the public sentiment, which demands good schools, ought to be gratified. During the year now closed, your Committee have sought by observation and inquiry to learn the actual results of the existing school system; to know its excellences and defects and ascertain by what means the latter may be remedied.

Let any one study the figures in the Statistical Table, and he will see that the *average attendance* varies in different districts and in different terms in those districts by a loss of from one-twelfth, to four-twelfths. Several scholars being absent from one-third to one-half of the term. This serious loss cannot, in a season like the past, be attributed to sickness or stormy weather.

The cause must be sought elsewhere. Is the fault with parents or with teachers, or with the children? We do not propose to answer the question. It is for our citizens to ponder the matter. If they see and weigh the evil, as it exists, and hinders the prosperity of our schools, a remedy will be suggested by their own good sense.

Again, if they will survey the condition and results of our schools during the past year, they will see that a great diversity appears in the usefulness of the schools. In some cases the money has been well expended; in others, no return has been secured that equals the outlay. Without pronouncing any school actually unprofitable, we are constrained to say that some were not satisfactory. They did not fulfil the objects for which the Common school is maintained. And the deficiency must be attributed mainly to the employment of teachers, who are lacking in some one or more of the essential qualifications for their work. A good teacher commands respect, wins affection, conciliates esteem, and makes "crooked things straight." Persons having such powers of achievement are not very common, it may be said; but the number would multiply, if the public would not be satisfied with teachers who lack force and fitness. If every district should demand a first-class teacher, the qualifications of those seeking employment as teachers would speedily improve. We all feel the need of teachers, having knowledge and tact; that are wise in the business of instruction and government. And we also recognize the importance of retaining such teachers in the service of the district, when found.

Now if you inquire why, we *experiment* so largely, by employing persons who have no certain qualifications for this important work,—persons without age, experience, or familiarity with the most approved methods of teaching, we are confronted with objections, which imply that the present *system* is at fault. The Prudential Committee, who hires the teacher, holds the office only for the current year, when he expects to yield the place to another. There is little honor and usually no emolument attending the office. He is consequently liable to yield to some solicitation of personal interest or partiality, and employ the teacher nearest at hand, or to rely on testimonials that are got together for the occasion. With the best intentions, he is often disappointed because he lacked

the information or the opportunities which a larger experience would furnish. Should he be successful in his endeavors,—the teacher, however faithful, has no assurance of holding the position beyond the present year. The next Committee may think the wages too high or have some other reason for making a change.

In these circumstances, teachers are impelled to seek new situations, and what is often worse, to seek to win reputation by showy methods and favoritism, instead of honest, pains-taking work. It would be easy to enlarge on the evils incident to a *system*, which involves such frequent changes in the succession of teachers. An instructor familiar with the dispositions and attainments of the scholars in a given school, has an obvious advantage over a stranger, if permitted to continue the work for a second or third time.

Few neighborhoods are aware what an accumulation of superior influences attend the well directed efforts of a right-minded and earnest teacher who is gaining not only in skill, but in the elements of character that make the service valuable. It certainly deserves consideration, whether we cannot have a more uniform and choice class of teachers. In some towns an advantage has been gained by committing the entire management of all the schools to a Board of Education. In some places the Prudential Committee has enlarged powers. Would either of these plans be suited to our circumstances and would either be likely to modify or remove the evils that we now feel? The Committee submit the subject to your consideration and best judgment.

The school houses are for the most part well located, and suitably furnished with outline maps and blackboards. New Dictionaries are needed in some instances and seats with desks of the more recent patterns would be a great improvement. In this respect, No. 5 has a model school room, while others are packed with benches which are uncomfortable and cramped. It is easy to obtain approved styles of school furniture at reasonable prices, and every District ought to consult the health and comfort of the children by providing a separate chair for each pupil.

As a remedy for the irregular attendance that so injures many schools, the Committee have enjoined the use of Department Cards, by which parents have a weekly report of the standing and

conduct of their children. Wherever they have been used systematically, the result has been favorable.

At a slight expense to the scholars, the Franklin series of Readers have been introduced to the schools of the out-districts. The books previously used were badly worn, and not well adapted to the attainments of the children. The change was welcomed as an improvement both by teachers and scholars.

The Committee have also sought to simplify and arrange the order of studies so as to promote a better classification. Too many branches of study are pursued in our schools. Should a new organization of the schools be adopted, an improved arrangement in the classification will probably follow, and a more thorough training in the elementary studies secured. There is great encouragement to labor in the cause of education. The State Normal School affords excellent training for teachers, and the Department of Instruction, under its present efficient Superintendent, is ready to furnish counsel and information to all that seek assistance; moreover, the best thoughts of the best Educators are now accessible through the issues of the press.

Respectfully submitted,

J. G. DAVIS,
R. A. DAVIS.

STATISTICS OF ALL THE SCHOOLS IN TOWN.

No. of District.	No. of Term.	Teachers.	Length in Weeks.	No. of Scholars.												Average Attendance.															
				No. between 5 & 15 not attending School.				Wages per month.				Reading.				Spelling.				Arithmetic.				Geography.				Grammar.			
1	High	1st Miss Helen M. Meade.	11 22 19 $\frac{1}{2}$	\$44 22 22	22	18	12	21	3	22	2	8	22	6	3																
		2nd "	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ 32 28	\$44 32 32	32	26	13	24	15	3	4	4																			
		3rd "	12 47 42 $\frac{1}{4}$	\$50 47 44	44	27	14	26	19	47	4	47																			
1	Prim. High	1st Miss Mary E. Bosworth	11 43 39	\$44 43 43	18	7	7	18																							
		2nd "	9 10 37 $\frac{1}{4}$	\$44 40 40	27	12	12	12																							
		3rd Miss Emma J. Fellows,	12 34 32	\$36 34 34	22	18																									
2	2	1st Miss Mary C. O'Connor	11 31 26	2	\$32 23 23	21	4	1 12	1																						
		2nd "	19 29 25	\$32 23 23	22	3	15	1																							
3	3	1st Miss Addie F. Noyes.	8 13 11 $\frac{1}{4}$	2	\$24 13 13	6	5	1	7																						
		2nd "	12 16 13 $\frac{1}{3}$	2	\$24 16 16	9	7	2 12	1	3																					
3	3	3rd Mr. Frank M. Searles.	10 14 11	2	\$28 12 12	8	4	2 11	3																						
		1st Miss Marcella Smith.	10 16 15		\$24 16 16	10	8	4 10	2	6																					
4	4	1st Miss Adelaide Whitten.	12 14 13	4	\$20 14 14	11	7	3 10																							
		2nd "	10 14 12 $\frac{1}{2}$	3	\$20 14 14	14	7	3 10	2																						
5	5	3rd Miss Ellen M. Nahor.	8 16 14 $\frac{1}{4}$	5	\$20 16 16	16	12	1 15	2																						
		1st Miss Emma H. Weston	8 15 10 $\frac{2}{3}$	2	\$20 14 14	13	5	4	7	1																					
6	6	2nd Mr. George W. Foster.	12 23 18 $\frac{1}{3}$	2	\$28 22 22	19	5	7	9	1																					
		1st Miss Addie M. Shorey.	9 31 25	4	\$24 31 31	18	10	6 20	6	7																					
7	7	2nd "	13 35 26 $\frac{1}{2}$	1	\$26 35 35	27	15	8 18	2 10	8 35																				2	
		1st Miss Sally U. Gage.	9 17 15 $\frac{3}{4}$	1	\$26 17 17	13	5	4	9	2																					
8	8	2nd Mr. J. Edward Upton.	11 19 17		\$28 19 19	13	3	6 11	2																					7	
		1st Miss Irene S. Bidwell.	8 9 8	3	\$22 9 9	8	7	3	7	2																			1		
9	9	2nd "	8 10 8	1	\$22 10 10	7	6	3	7																			2			
		3rd "	10 13 10	2	\$24 13 13	12	8	8 12	1																			1			
10	10	1st Miss Bessie P. Fuller.	10 16 16 $\frac{1}{2}$		\$24 16 16	13	5	5	8	1																		1			
		2nd "	11 19 15 $\frac{3}{4}$	1	\$28 19 19	14	4	4	8	1																		1			

By the return of Selectmen, the number of children between five and fifteen is 203. Boys 100. Girls 103.

